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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/997,121	11/28/2001	Peter Lee	276-001	3639

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EXAMINER

GELIN, JEAN ALLAND

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2681	2

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DATE MAILED: 06/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/997,121

Applicant(s)

LEE, PETER

Examiner

Jean A Gelin

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 November 2001.
- 2a)  This action is FINAL.
- 2b)  This action is non-final.
- 3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4)  Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
  - 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6)  Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10)  The drawing(s) filed on 28 November 2001 is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    - a)  All b)  Some \* c)  None of:
      - 1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      - 2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
      - 3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chang (US 6,536,589) in view of Kurokawa et al. (US 5,927,673).

Regarding claims 1, 5, Chang teaches a cover for a personal computing device (i.e., protective housing for PDA, col. 1, lines 6-12), the cover comprising (figs. 3-6): a support portion (13) coupled to a support section (11), the support section configured to couple to a personal computing device for securing the computing device to the cover (col. 2, line 59 to col. 3, line 25); and a user interface portion coupled to the support portion, the user interface portion pivotable away from a user interface surface of a personal computing device secured to the cover to inhibit the cover from interfering with a user accessing the personal computing device (col. 2, line 59 to col. 3, line 46).

Chang does not specifically teach a stand section coupled to a support section and the stand section pivotable away from a computing device secured to the cover and retained in a fixed position relative to the computing device for supporting the computing device at an inclined angle relative to a support surface, when the cover is placed on the support surface.

However, the preceding limitation is known in the art of communications. Kurokawa teaches an adjustable viewing stand for use with handheld device; when a different viewing position is desired or the viewing stand is no longer needed (col. 2, lines 24-40). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to implement the techniques of Kurokawa within the system of Chang in order that when the viewing is no longer needed, the viewing stand folds flat against the electronic device to maintain a narrow profile.

Regarding claims 2, 6, Chang in view of Kurokawa teaches all the limitations above. Chang further teaches wherein the support portion extends generally parallel to a back surface of a personal computing device secured to the cover and the user interface portion extends generally parallel to the user interface surface of the personal computing device when the cover is in a closed position to inhibit damage to the personal computing device (figs. 5 and 6, col. 3, lines 35-47).

Regarding claim 3, Chang in view of Kurokawa teaches all the limitations above. Kurokawa further teaches wherein the stand section is generally aligned with the support section when the cover is in the closed position (col. 3, lines 21-33).

Regarding claim 4, Chang in view of Kurokawa teaches all the limitations above. Chang further teaches a locking apparatus coupled to one of the support portion and user interface portion to inhibit the cover opening inadvertently (col. 3, lines 15-24).

Regarding claim 7, Chang in view of Kurokawa teaches all the limitations above. Kurokawa further teaches wherein the cover is altered from the closed position to a viewing position by pivoting the user interface portion away from the user interface

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surface of the personal computing device coupled to the cover, the stand section then being pivoted away from the back surface of the computing device and toward the support section until the stand section forms a desired angular relationship with the computing device, to position the cover in the viewing position, and whereby upon positioning the cover in the viewing position, the cover is placed on the support surface, such that the stand section supports the computing device at an inclined angle on the support surface to facilitate access to the user interface surface of the personal computing device (col. 3, line 21 to col. 5, line 38).

Regarding claim 8 Chang in view of Kurokawa teaches all the limitations above. Chang further teaches a locking apparatus coupled to the stand section, the locking apparatus configured to couple the user interface portion to the support portion to inhibit the cover from opening inadvertently (col. 3, lines 15-24).

Regarding claim 9, Chang in view of Kurokawa teaches all the limitations above. Chang further teaches wherein the locking apparatus is further configured to abut the back surface of the personal computing device when the cover is positioned in a viewing position to aid with supporting the computing device (col. 3, lines 5-47).

3. Claims 10-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chang (US 6,536,589) in view of Kurokawa et al. (US 5,927,673) further in view of Genest et al. (US 6,480,377).

Regarding claim 10, Chang in view of Kurokawa teaches all the limitations above except the support section further comprises a data connection located on an inner surface thereof, the data connection configured to couple to a data port of a personal

computing device to electronically couple the personal computing device to the data entry and manipulation device.

However, the preceding limitation is known in the art of communications. Genest teaches a protective case for a handheld computer comprises a computer attachment portion having a data transmitter adapted to transfer data to the computer processor of the handheld computer through the data port of the handheld computer (col. 5, lines 32-65). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to implement the technique of Genest within the system of Chang in view of Kurokawa in order to transfer data to the computer processor through the data port.

Regarding to claim 11, the claim is interpreted and rejected for the same reasons as set forth in the rejection of claims 5 and 10.

Regarding claim 12, Chang in view of Kurokawa further in view of Genest teaches all the limitations above. Figs. 3-6 of Chang inherently teaches wherein the support section further comprises a support bracket located on an inner surface thereof, the support bracket configured to detachably secure a personal computing device to the cover, the support bracket housing a data connection configured to couple to a data port of a personal computing device (col. 2, line 59 to col. 3, line 65).

Regarding claim 13, Chang in view of Kurokawa further in view of Genest teaches all the limitations above. Kurokawa further teaches a hinge coupled to the support section and stand section for pivotably coupling the stand section to the support section, the hinge allowing the stand section to form different desired angular

relationships with the computing device and retaining the stand section in a desired angular relationship with the computing device (col. 3, line 21 to col. 4, line 62).

Regarding claim 14, Chang in view of Kurokawa further in view of Genest teaches all the limitations above. Chang further teaches a locking apparatus coupled to the stand section, the locking apparatus configured to detachably couple the user interface portion to the support portion to inhibit the cover from opening inadvertently, the locking apparatus configured to abut the back surface of the personal computing device when the cover is positioned in a viewing position to aid with supporting the computing device (col. 3, lines 5-42).

Regarding claim 15, Chang in view of Kurokawa further in view of Genest teaches all the limitations above. Chang further teaches wherein each the support portion and user interface portion has a height and a width substantially similar to a height and width of the personal computing device coupled to the cover (fig. 6).

Regarding claim 16, Chang in view of Kurokawa further in view of Genest teaches all the limitations above. Genest further teaches wherein the integrated data manipulation device is dimensioned to fit within the periphery of the interface portion (fig. 1).

Regarding claim 17, Chang in view of Kurokawa further in view of Genest teaches all the limitations above. Genest further teaches wherein the integrated data manipulation device is located on an inner surface of the user interface portion of the cover, the data manipulation device comprising a keyboard that includes at least one key that provides data entry and manipulation of data stored in the personal computing

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device coupled to the cover, the s keyboard coupled to the data connection for coupling the keyboard to the personal computing device (col. 5, lines 32-65).

Regarding claims 18, 19, Chang in view of Kurokawa further in view of Genest teaches all the limitations above. Genest further teaches wherein the integrated keyboard comprises a membrane keyboard, and an alphanumeric keypad configured in a QWERTY configuration (col. 11, lines 7-65).

### ***Conclusion***

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Lim (US 6,539,580) teaches hinge assembly for a cover.

Moller et al. (US 5,555,157) teaches enclosure for electronic apparatus having a cover catch member.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jean A Gelin whose telephone number is (703) 305-4847. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 AM to 6:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Erika A Gary can be reached on (703) 308-0123. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.



Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JGelin  
May 28, 2004

**JEAN GELIN**  
**PATENT EXAMINER**  
*Jean Alband Gelin*